

Name: **Shirley Basin Rim WY-030-27N81W22-2012**

**FORM 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

**No** \_\_\_ **X** \_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

**a) Inventory Source:** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** \_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** N/A

**d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):** \_\_\_ N/A

**2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: **Shirley Basin Rim WY-030-27N81W22-2012** Acreage 17,243.88

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒X\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the west by Carbon County Road 103 a.k.a. Dry Creek Rd. The unit is bound on the south by state and private land. The unit is bound on the east by Wyoming State Highway 77 and state land. The unit is bound on the south by private and state land as well as Carbon County Road 102 a.k.a. Leo-Shirley Basin Rd. The unit is bound on the north by private land and BLM Road 3129 a.k.a. Chalk Mountain Road.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Shirley Basin Rim area under consideration is 17,243.88 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP2	RANGE3	SECTION4
t26n	r80w	7	t27n	r81w	24
t26n	r80w	8	t27n	r81w	22
t26n	r80w	4	t27n	r81w	23
t26n	r80w	5	t27n	r81w	21
t26n	r80w	6	t27n	r81w	20
t26n	r81w	3	t27n	r80w	16
t26n	r81w	4	t27n	r80w	18
t26n	r81w	5	t27n	r80w	17
t26n	r81w	6	t27n	r81w	13
t27n	r80w	33	t27n	r81w	14
t27n	r80w	32	t27n	r81w	15
t27n	r80w	31	t27n	r81w	16
t27n	r81w	34	t27n	r81w	17
t27n	r81w	33	t27n	r80w	8
t27n	r81w	32	t27n	r80w	7
t27n	r80w	29	t27n	r80w	9
t27n	r80w	30	t27n	r81w	12
t27n	r81w	25	t27n	r81w	11

t27n	r81w	26	t27n	r81w	10
t27n	r81w	27	t27n	r81w	9
t27n	r81w	28	t27n	r81w	8
t27n	r81w	29	t27n	r81w	3
t27n	r80w	20	t27n	r81w	4
t27n	r80w	21	t27n	r81w	5
t27n	r80w	19			

The topography consists, primarily, of the Shirley Basin Rim. Elevation ranges from 7,648 feet on the tops of the mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 7,000 feet at the bottom of the drainages including Dry Creek and Muddy Creek. The dominant vegetation cover in the unit consists of Mountain Big Sagebrush along the hills and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 41.34 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 2-3 and 6-9. When hiking across the Shirley Basin Rim Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains two oil and gas wells within the Shirley Basin Rim Unit (see examples in Photos 12 and 16). When examining the status of these oil and gas wells, it was determined that these wells were permanently abandoned during 1954 and 1964, respectively. Since these wells have been abandoned and fully reclaimed, they were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Shirley Basin Rim Unit also contains 12 man-made reservoirs (see locations in unit map and examples in photos 4-5, 10-11, and 14-15). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the 12 reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" has been contaminated by cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including the 12 reservoirs, one spring, and 21.16 miles of fence, are supporting commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled

by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Shirley Basin Rim Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

**A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number: Shirley Basin Rim WY-030-27N81W22-2012**

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

\_\_X\_\_ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones**

Team members:

Name	Title
Chris Jones	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Robert Epp	BLM Range Management Specialist
Lynn McCarthy	BLM GIS Specialist
Natasha Keierleber	BLM Archaeologist
Kelly Owens	BLM Hydrologist
Kelly Fischer	BLM Wildlife Specialist
Nyle Layton	BLM Minerals Physical Scientist
Tim Novotny	BLM AFM Resources
Fred Peck	BLM Recreation Assistant

**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_